MATWATCH EXTRA

New heavyweight boxing champion James "Buster" Douglas will referee the Hulk Hogan-Randy Savage match on NBC's THE MAIN EVENT Friday night. The deal was closed with Douglas' manager Saturday. Titan Sports acknowledged on ALL-AMERICAN WRESTLING Sunday former champ Mike Tyson "may not appear."

In another note, MATWATCH has learned Joe Pedicino has been approached to become general manager of International Championship Wrestling. ICW President Mario Savoldi has contacted Pedicino, who says he can't discuss the post until after his NWA contract expires Feb. 28. If he accepts, Pedicino will oversee revamping ICW's syndication and TV format, which may include merging of independent and overseas groups.

MATWATCH

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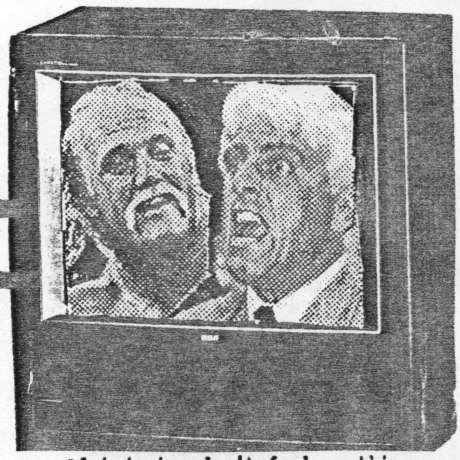
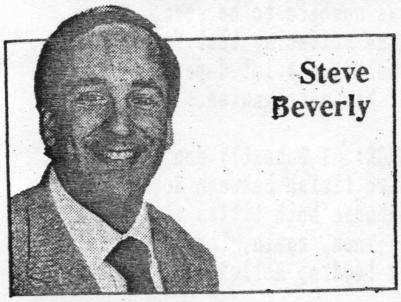


A Week to Remember

TYSON: NO MOTOWN; STING: OUT 6 MONTHS

The caller Saturday night before last said: "God certainly works in mysterious ways." I always knew that but the course of wrestling's events the last two weeks has been as bizarre as the aftermath of a tornado.



Steve Beverly

First off, as reported in a a copyrighted story by the Detroit Free Press last Thursday, former heavyweight boxing champion Mike Tyson has told the Michigan Boxing Commission he does not intend to appear at Friday night's NBC MAIN EVENT prime time WWF special. Tyson, scheduled to referee the Hulk Hogan-Randy Savage WWF title match, has taken a pasting in the national boxing media the past ten days after his upset loss to James "Buster" Douglas in Tokyo Feb. 10. Veteran boxing writer Ron Gardella ripped Tyson's promoter Don King for concentrating more on the WWF event and potential tie-ins with Titan Sports than on Douglas.

WWF owner Vince McMahon Jr. was to have met with King late last week in an effort to salvage Tyson for the show. But little hope was being held out in Titan circles to save the situation. The NEW YORK DAILY NEWS reported Tyson was to have been paid $1 million for the appearance.

Frankly, my feeling was the Tyson upset would have done more to pump up ratings for the MAIN EVENT special than Tyson the champion. For one thing, Tyson, pre-Douglas, may have been regarded invincible but hardly a pillar of personality and I didn't see a boxing crossover as a major hype, particularly when the mainline media failed to embrace the Tyson ref job with the love and awe McMahon surely wanted. Tyson would have appeared in a ring for the first time since his defeat and the curiosity factor would have been far greater.

Accordingly, Titan will have to concentrate on its angle involving the Ultimate Warrior to set up WRESTLEMANIA VI. In my view, the more telling factor on critical ratings for NBC is the 10 p.m. (EST) time period, a killer for the networks. NBC is only averaging a 9.9 rating with MANCUSO, FBI and other series in that slot and ABC's 20/20 is a tough show to beat with the upscale audience. My prediction: the show will do a 12-13 rating and possibly a 22-23 share. I don't know if that's enough for NBC to offer Titan a prime time slot in 1991.

World Championship Wrestling, Inc., certainly had far more devastating news last Tuesday. Steve "Sting" Borden had apparently successful surgery to repair a patella tendon. However, the grim diagnosis is Sting will be sidelined for six months. Orthopedic surgeon Dr. Jim Andrews said the tendon had been severed at the spot where the kneecap is held in place. Said WCW senior vice president Jim Herd: "Jim Andrews told us we can't rush him back too early or we'll ruin him. So right now, it looks like August before we can get Steve back. We'll offer regular Sting rehab updates on all of our shows."

The former NWA TV champion was a virtual certainty to win the NWA world belt from Ric Flair Sunday night at WRESTLE WAR '90 in Greensboro. Sting is expected to be at ringside on crutches or in a wheelchair during what now will be a Lex Luger-Flair title match---to be honest, the only significant match on this show unless Road Warriors-Skyscrapers hits big (see THIS WEEK'S HEADLINES).

In the short run, this is a major blow because after the CLASH I angle with the Horsemen, rank and file fans genuinely wanted to see the Sting-Flair match. Second, it delays almost surely until STARRCADE a TBS plan to try to build a major demographic campaign around Sting as a champion appealing to children, teens and young adults, critical for the future of WCW. Third, it forces Luger back into the role of babyface much too soon but there's little choice.

If injuries don't foul up this promotion, internal squabbles do. With so much heat on the Horsemen, fans are clamoring for a title change Sunday, which means it probably won't happen because WCW is a master at doing the opposite of what paying customers want to see.

But MATWATCH has been told, astonishingly, Luger is balking at winning the belt for a variety of reasons. It's possible that is another "throw off the sheets" setup, which is fine. In fact, in the last 10 days, I've been given allegedly authoritative info on as many as eight different scenarios for the finish----from a quick Luger win to a Broadway to a countout, to Flair winning another screw job---you name it. I don't trust any of them. In my view, if Luger does not win Sunday, it clouds his credibility as a top contender because it will be three failures for the world belt on pay-per-view shows for him. He'll become the Denver Broncos of pro wrestling and a hard sell for any future title shot.

PREDICTION: Even though speculation is now leaning heavily toward no title switch, business calls for a Luger win, so I'll pick it. If I'm wrong, it means TBS has not assumed control of this promotion. As for the buy-rate: very liberally, a 1.6 per cent figure---if the day before promotion is properly handled. MATWATCH will be in Greensboro for live coverage, so your bulletins will be one day late in mailing next week.

THIS WEEK'S HEADLINES

SAITO WINS AWA BELT; EGG DOME SETS RECORD

TOKYO----Masa Saito defeated Larry Zbyszko Saturday night at the Egg Dome to win the AWA "world" heavyweight title.

Saito ended the year-long reign of Zbyszko before a crowd which broke a world record for gate receipts, an estimated $4.2 million.

Saito, who also owns a home in Minneapolis, is expected to have an extended reign and defend the belt in the U.S.

THIS WEEK'S HEADLINES

(Continued from Page 1)

SPIVEY NO-SHOWS TV; SLOT IN JEOPARDY

ATLANTA ---- Skyscraper Danny Spivey, scheduled in a major WRESTLE WAR '90 match vs. the Road Warriors Sunday, may be scratched from the show.

Spivey failed to show for NWA TV tapings Monday and Tuesday of last week and did not call the Atlanta office to explain why. The team partner of Mark Callous is said to be dealing with personal difficulties.

If Spivey is bumped, sources say one possibility is for Nitron, former bodyguard of WOMAN, will be paired with Callous against the Road Warriors.

WCW ROSTER TO BE CUT BUT MASS AXINGS DENIED

ATLANTA ---- A number of NWA/WCW wrestlers have been told their contracts will not be renewed at the same pay scale as in 1990.

Rumors of mass firings in the NWA spread last week but WCW vice president Jim Herd told MATWATCH the company is taking a stricter line on salaries this year. First-year arena losses for WCW have been estimated at $10 million.

Jim Cornette and the Midnight Express have been told their pacts, which expire May 16, won't be renewed at their current salaries but a key NWA source expects terms will be reached.

Others reportedly either to be dropped or renegotiated include Johnny Ace, the Royal Family, Tommy Rich, Ranger Ross and the Wild Samoans. The WCW roster is expected to be reduced overall to 30-32 players.

MATWATCH SUBSCRIPTIONS

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MATWATCHINGS

MUTA LEAVES: A meeting in an effort to keep Keiiji Muto in the NWA failed last Monday. WCW is blaming Gary Hart, in part, for the departure. "Since we severed our relationship with Hart, he's been filling that young man's mind with ideas he should go home to Japan and come back to George Scott's new group in a few months, where he'll `be a star,'" said WCW executive Jim Herd.

NO ROOS: Interestingly, we're told the NWA was finally readying a babyface turn for Muta and ROOS wanted to create a Muta sneaker but he still said no.

ROCKERS OUT: Sources close to Titan tell us the Rockers have been scratched from WRESTLEMANIA VI. Reports are Sean Michaels and Marty Jannetty showed up battered for a date and claimed it was from fighting each other. The Bolsheviks will now replace the Rockers vs. the Hart Foundation in Toronto.

WM6 SALES: Vince McMahon has set aside 2500 tickets for bus packages to Toronto from nearby U.S. cities. The average ticket price for WM6 is $72.

HOT TICKETS: Reportedly, 22,000 tickets were sold for the Skydome in the first 36 hours. The total gate, if a sellout, will probably run close to $5 million, topping the Egg Dome.

VINCE-BABA BLUES: Somehow, this Japan show with Vince and the Japanese is probably going to be a one-show deal. Lots of one-upsmanship and disputes over Hogan's opponent. Baba is insisting it be Tenryu while McMahon wants it to be Gordy because he reportedly fears a doublecross.

GORDY TALES: Terry actually called the NWA last week and said he preferred working out of Atlanta but estimates are he wants $6,000 a week and with budgets being tightened, it's probably not going to happen.

RATING PEAKS: The full RATINGS RAP is on Page 6 but last week's WCW and NWA MAIN EVENT shows both peaked with phenomenal 4.3 ratings. The Midnight Express-Rock & Roll match on WCW pulled an 8.4 share (2.3 million homes) and the Warriors/Doc-Samoans match scored an 8 share. Whatever the problems on The Committee, one cannot argue the extraordinary success drawing TV audiences of late.

KENDO OUT: Dragonmaster is being dumped from the NWA and Kevin Sullivan will sub for Muta in the opener tag match Sunday night. But don't believe talk that Ole Anderson and Buzz Sawyer will soon defeat the Steiners for the NWA tag belts.

WWF SHAKEUP: I keep hearing major changes are coming in Titan after WM6 and here are some clues: at last week's TV tapings, Haku appeared headed toward a babyface turn and Bobby Heenan appeared with the Barbarian. Warlord was nowhere to be seen. Stories continue surfacing that Terry Taylor will bolt but a lot depends on the success of his merchandise.

NO CHANGE: I honestly don't expect a conclusive finish between Hogan and Warrior because both titles will be on the line. Then, again, they may just have Terry legdrop Hellwig for a 1,2,3.

ICW HEAT: Paul E. Dangerously's efforts with this studio show last week were brilliant. ICW taped new episodes Tuesday night at Cutcher's, a resort in New England. MATWATCH expects Mario Savoldi to cut a deal with a well-known name in the industry in short order.

BOOSTER SHOT: Though not publicly revealed, Titan has entered into a loose agreement with ICW to act as a minor league, where stale talent can go for a refresher and new acts can be auditioned.

NBC LOVES NORM: The Norman/Kevin Sullivan finish aired twice on the late and early morning sportscasts on KNBC in Los Angeles the night of CLASH X.

SEE YOU IN COURT?: A post-script to the Paul E. Dangerously threat of legal action vs. the NWA. As of last Thursday, the letter to TBS attorneys had not been answered so Dangerously is apparently going to try to file suit in U.S. District Court in New York. The word from TBS is that the threat has wiped out any hope of Paul ever returning to the promotion.

ROLLERSUIT: The RAM Corporation, which was involved in the ROLLERGAMES effort, is suing producer David Sams for $1 million over its failures.

ANNUAL: A few copies of the annual remain at $12 (U.S.), $20 (overseas).

(SCALE) PINFALL! - Must See. PILEDRIVER - Excellent. POWER-SLAM - Good. IRON - Average. RESTHOLD - Fair. BOMB - Poor. PLUS - Midscale.

(WWF/SYND.) - [CHALLENGE]: Kingfish Rhodes d. Rick Martel; Bolsheviks d. Stoney Burke/Tim Bronson; Jim Duggan d. Karl Nelson; Ronnie Garvin d. Spike Jones; Dino Bravo d. Mike Williams; Powers of Pain d. Scott Colton/George Skaaland. RESTHOLD.
[SUPERSTARS]: Bushwackers d. Jones/Pat Rose; Earthquake Tenta d. Breakdance Young, who stretchers; Brutus Beefcake d. Rick Rude by DQ when Curt Hennig, Lanny Poffo run in; Tito Santana d. Brooklyn Brawler; Rockers d. Alan Martin/Craig Green; BRO. LUV: Ted DiBiase pays Akeem/Slick to take revenge on Big Bossman. RESTHOLD-PLUS.

(ICW) - ONLY MATCH: Roadblock d. Matt Lincoln; REST OF SHOW: Paul E. Dangerously, Bob Dow review key ICW angles; SEGMENTS: Diamond Jim Brady w. Wrestling School Dropout; ANGLE: 1) Paul E. goes nuts when Phil Apollo appears in the building but after a 20-min. split-screen, Apollo flies into the studio and beats the tar out of Paul; 2) After commercial break, Paul returns to taunt Apollo---who goes after Paul E. but the Lethal Weapons jump Phil as closing credits roll. POWERSLAM-PLUS...funniest show ever with this little wrestling.

(CWA) - VIDEOS: Jerry Lawler, Soultaker, Billy Travis. RECAP: Lawler vs. Junkyard Dog; Jeff Jarrett vs. Rapp; Travis d. James; Dustin Rhodes/J.J. Funk d. Jeff Gaylord/Sheik Braddock by DQ when Devastation runs in, beats up Funk & tie up Dustin in corner, put poncho, sombrero on him and pour whiskey all over him. RESTHOLD-PLUS.

(SCW) - Billy Starr/Kareem Muhammad d. Nick Busich/Jim Bryant when Jim hits Busich. Nick vows revenge on Bryant; Dino Minnelli/Steve Lawler d. Chic Donovan/John Brewer; Mike Golden/Mr. Atlanta d. Keith Steinborn/Tommy Key; Ted Allen draw vs. Brett Sawyer; Joel Deaton d. Ralph Edwards. RESTHOLD.

(NWA/SYND.) - [NWA PRO]: Steiners d. Tugboat Tyler/Chris Allen; Lex Luger d. Alex Porteau; Buzz Sawyer d. Rock Hard Rick; Norman d. Cuban Assassin; Mike Rotunda d. Cactus Jack Manson by DQ when Cactus uses knucks; (RECAP) Road Warriors-Skyscrapers. RESTHOLD.
[WORLD WIDE]: (U.S. TOURNEY) Freebirds d. Dynamic Dudes; (PUNK'S GRILL) Terry w. Steiners; Arn Anderson d. Allen; (U.S. TOURNEY) Tom Zenk/Brian Pillman d. Midnight Express; (RECAP) Four Horsemen-Sting from CLASH. DRAW.

(USWA) - J.J. Funk/Dustin Rhodes d. Speedy Gonzales (Chico Cabella)/Gary Young but Devastation, Dutch Mantel join in for brawl after; FOOTBALL MATCH: Matt Borne d. Gaylord by DQ; TEXAS TITLE: Kerry Von Erich d. Soultaker by countout and the 2 brawl to the Sportatorium door. FROM CWA: Robert Fuller says he's holding a STAR SEARCH for a new valet since Sylvia left him to become a barmaid. RESTHOLD-PLUS.

TV TEMPO
Feb. 12-18

(PORTLAND) - [2 Wks. Ago] PACIFIC NW TITLE: Curtis Thompson d. Scotty the Body for belt; Beetlejuice d. Al Madril; Brian Adams d. Bill Francis; Ricky Santana/Jeff Warner d. Grappler/Jonathan Holliday when Warner is piledriven on floor & Santana tied in ropes & coated w. makeup; ANGLE: Grappler refuses Rip Oliver's challenge, then bashes Rip & his son Larry w. chair. Don Owen tries to separate before the faces save. DRAW-PLUS.
[Last Week]: Thompson d. Madril; Big Beetlejuice (Warner) d. Adams by DQ; Rip Oliver d. Grappler by DQ; Little Beetlejuice d. Scotty by reversal; Santana d. Holliday but Jonathan jumps Ricky after & puts dress & makeup on him again; Francis d. Equalizer by DQ for over-the-top. ANGLES: 1) Adams offers $1,000 to anyone who can beat him arm wrestling; 2) Beetlejuice says Roddy Piper impressed with Jeff Warner, who is transformed into Big Beetlejuice; FIESTA GARDEN: Madril tells kids the only way they'll get in free on KIDS' NIGHT is if they wipe the "Juice" makeup off; 3) Equalizer hits Little BJ with trash can lid before Big BJ saves. POWERSLAM.

(LUCHA LIBRE/GALAVISION) - Pricipe Island/Super Angel w. 2-3 fall match; Sombra Poblana/Tauro Jr. d. El Simbolo/Zorro de Oro 2 straight; Vulcano/Tony Arce/Comando Ruso d. Octagon/Pantera II/Remo Bonda 2-3; Ciclo Ramirez/Gran Cochise/Mascara Sagrada d. El Egipcio/Super Halcon/Pirata Morgan 2-3 but Ramirez is unmasked. Cochise/Sagrada cover his face. RESTHOLD.

(PWF) - Buddy Landell (debut) d. Wild Thing; Nasty Boys d. Ron Slinker/Brickhouse Brown when Nasties try to cut Slinker's hair but Landell and unnamed man run in and beat up Saggs; Steve Keirn d. Joe Padero but Landell fails in run-in try; Tyree Pride d. Hollywood Rob; Lou Perez/Hurricane Walker d. Cliff Sheets/Mike McClaskey; Terminator d. A. Snake Brown but Landell attacks Termie & Keirn makes save. BOMB-PLUS.

(NWA/TBS) - [NCW]: (U.S. TOURNEY) Freebirds d. Gilbert/Rich; M Ex d. Rock & Roll; Doug Furnas d. Jack Victory; REPLAY: Sting-Horsemen CLASH angle; INTERVIEW: Jim Ross w. Sting at hospital; (From NWA PRO) Cactus attacks Rotunda; Sullivan/Cactus d. Rose/Lee Scott; Steiners d. Mark Kyle/Nasty Ned Brady; ANGLE: Andersons jump Steiners & Arn DDTs Rick on stage; DOOMED d. Larry Santo/Keith Hart; Norman d. Rip Morgan but Cactus taunts Norm after; NWA TV TITLE: Arn Anderson d. Shane Douglas when ref stops match but Steiners save; Ric Flair (w. WOMAN) d. Brian Pillman using trunks; LOUISVILLE SLUGGER: Horsemen give Lex Luger to end of show to give up Feb. 25 title match vs. Flair. At end of show, Luger decks all three Horsemen & leaves. PILEDRIVER-PLUS...one of great weekly wrestling episodes ever.
[MAIN EVENT]: Flair/Arn d. Rock & Roll Express; Sullivan d. Norman by countout when Cactus distracts Norm. POWERSLAM.

LINES OF THE WEEK

1. Paul E. Dangerously, ICW: "The only reason Vince Apollo is here today is because he was conceived 10 minutes before Roe vs. Wade." 2. Lex Luger, NCW: "The Total Package doesn't meet deadlines. I set 'em." 3. Diamond Jim Brady & Wrestling School Dropout, ICW: (DJB) "You used to be a helicopter pilot?" (WSD) "Yeah, but we got up 10,000 feet and it got a little cold so I turned that big fan off. Next thing I

knew, I woke up in the hospital." 4. Brady/Dropout, ICW: (DJB) "You used to be a fisherman?" (WSD) "Yeah, I used to live in North Maine and do a lot of ice fishing but never could catch anything. Finally, the guy at the skating rink explained to me there were no fish down there." 5. Roddy Piper, LOVE BOAT: "Don't call me no dummy." 6. Atlas, ICW: "Any bum who would get in the ring with me has got to have the IQ of a banana." 7. Michael Hayes, NWA PRO: "I'm surprised Cactus has trouble getting along with his tag team partners. I happen to know he's had 3 successful marriages." 8. Terry Funk, WWW: "I'd like to give you a YAPPENDECTOMY, Crispy." 9. Rick Steiner, NWA PRO, on Ole & Arn: "We had the same mother & father. They didn't have the same stuff." 10. Jesse Ventura, WWF: "I don't speak the King's English. I live in America."

11. Don Coss, PORTLAND, to Scotty: "Wake up and smell the wrestlers." 12. Atlas, ICW: "There's 2 things I hate more than anything in this world: a dog chasing cars and a broken down old wrestler chasing me." 13. Robert Fuller, CWA: "Sylvia's left me. She's a barmaid in Columbus, Ga. and she don't give a flip about Stud Stable any more." 14. Funk, WWW: "Cornette oozes like a piece of rancid meat." 15. Samuel P. Kent, WVEU: "Cactus Jack is from Truth or Consequences, N. Mex. Mike Rotunda felt the truth AND the consequences." 16. Michael Hayes, NWA: "Those 3 guys in the front row look like they belong on a butcher calendar." 17. Vince McMahon, WWF, on 'Wackers: "I'd be afraid of being licked if I were an official." 18. Fuller, CWA: "We need somebody to swing that kendo stick like Babe Ruth." 19. Funk, WWW: "Crispy, you're full of sayings that need to go without saying." 20. Kareem Muhammad, SCW, on The Dynasty: "I don't want to be the treasurer. I don't want to be the vice president. Just give me somebody to beat on."

21. Funk, WWW: "Rick Steiner looks like a fool. He acts like a fool---don't get me wrong. He IS a fool." 22. Kent, WVEU: "Boni, I want you to keep your schoolgirl figure, just like I have my schoolboy figure." 23. Theodore R. Long, MME: "Beaumont, Texas, is the only town where you can shut your eyes and open 'em and in you're in another state." 24. Diamond Dallas Page, PWF: "Rev. Billy Wirtz is as necessary as a fence around a cemetery." 25. Jim Cornette, WCW: "Ric Flair would like to say hello to Ivana Trump, who's been calling him but WOMAN got there first." 26. Corny, WCW, on Norman: "He and Dennis Brent graduated from the same grade school together...last year."

STRONGEST COMMENTS - 1. Sting, WCW: "I'm saying less than six months. I'm not gonna listen to the doctors." 2. Brian Pillman, WCW, to WOMAN: "I know the difference between a lady and a tramp!" 3. Atlas, ICW: "I see all these world champions from all these other areas who wish they were me. But they're not. There's only one Tony Atlas." 4. Grappler, PORTLAND, to Larry Oliver: "For all I know, I could be your father!" 5. Chris Cruise, WWW: "Where are the referees EVER when you need them?" 6. Ventura, WWF: "SOMEBODY had to teach Tyson how to count 1,2,3."

SEXIST REMARK - Tony Atlas, "Don't have a girlfriend. Don't need one. I just need a girl for two hours and, boom, she's gone."

QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK - 1. Funk, WWW, to Norman: "Why don't you come back next week as a pillow? You have the figure for it." 2. McMahon, WWF: "Are you telling me Mike Tyson and Randy Savage are buddies?"

NICKNAME OF THE WEEK - TONY "KILL 'EM" GILLAM (Cornette on NWA ring announcer).

BEST PICTURES - 1. NWA PRO, Cactus Jack's over-the-top bump. 2. NWA PRO, Cactus being posted. 3. WWF, Luke Williams licking a child. 4. USWA, Kerry Von Erich-Soultaker standoff. 5. WWW, Cruise/Funk wearing U.S. tag belts. 6. WCW, Cactus Crash. 7. WCW, Flair-Pillman match.

BEST SONG - Fuller, CWA: "Someday You'll Want Me to Want You."

PASSWORD OF THE WEEK - Ventura, WWF: "REFEREESMANSHIP."

DREADED GLITCH AWARDS - 1. USWA, late bringing up Skandor Akbar's mike. 2. NWA, Akklaim ad plugging WRESTLEMANIA video game during NWA shows. 3. PORTLAND, Don Coss plugs replay of Grappler-Oliver brawl and tape of Curtis Thompson winning Pacific NW belt plays. On return, Coss says, "Wasn't that just terrible?"

TUBE TALK

That WCW show Saturday had Jim Ross written all over it and was absolutely tremendous. It focused heavily on Luger's title shot, kept you aware of Sting and still sprinkled good doses of sidebar angles. Possibly the finest WCW....Late word from DAILY VARIETY is Vince McMahon may try to file a court injunction to force Mike Tyson to show Friday night. Watch your papers this week.

PWF drew only 22 fans to its most recent Tampa show. The group has also lost its Lakeland TV to WWF....This week on NWA PRO: Mike Rotunda vs. Cactus Jack no DQ rematch....Rotunda had a nice pop for his match vs. Cactus Saturday.... POWER HOUR Friday: Road Warriors-DOOMED....U.S. tag finals on WORLD WIDE this weekend.

Robert Fuller displayed a terrific singing voice on CWA during his STAR SEARCH angle....PWF was virtually THE BUDDY LANDELL SHOW this week. Talk is Angelo Mosca is considering buying into the group....David Woods has sold the old CWF time periods to NWA for WORLD WIDE in Montgomery, Dothan and Panama City, which virtually ends hope of an Eddie Gilbert-Paul E. Dangerously southeast regional try.

NWA has now cut a deal to air in England. Lance Russell and Jim Ross cut voiceovers for the first show last week. I don't know the start date or network....When the new George Scott show starts in the Carolinas, I'd appreciate a postcard with TV results from any of you MATWATCHers in that area.... Scott is runs a show Saturday night in Gaffney, S.C.....The Beefcake-Rude match looked awfully hurried on SUPERSTARS. It was one of those let's-get-the-run-in-done-quickly angles and was quite a comedown from that great Bubba-Jake-DiBiase bit.

Roddy Piper didn't get a great script for his LOVE BOAT movie role on CBS last Monday. They tried making him into Gilligan and it made "They Live" (now airing on HBO) appear to be Oscar-quality. I did find the name Maurice "The Beast" STEINER interesting for Roddy....Tully Blanchard not hired by NWA because he only wanted to work TV and big shows, a big salary and to keep his Coca-Cola marketing job....Chris Cruise is one of the sleeper finds of announcers. His intensity in calling the action gets stronger every week.... Final reminder: we'll be in Greensboro Sunday for WRESTLE WAR, belt change or not. MATWATCH will, accordingly, be mailed Tuesday of next week, so you should receive it one day late.

YOU SAID IT!!!!

Did you see the VARIETY piece on (Hulk) Hogan and Disney last week? Hogan is trying to negotiate out of his contract to sign with Disney for two flicks and personal appearances. Wait till they see what happens to Hogan outside of wrestling. This is probably all WWF PR to make everyone think he's dropping the belt to Warrior. (Roddy) Piper's movie career tepid? You should add "he's picky" to that. He was not happy with the roles offered him. He doesn't want to do "B" films but his opinions may change if things don't get better in 1990 and they don't look promising so far.

TERESA DeMARIE
TUCKAHOE NY

(FSB: T.D., you're no outlaw in my book! Also, Piper's "They Live" is airing on HBO this month.)

I hated to read Lance Russell and Bob Caudle are in for a demotion in the NWA announcing ranks. Gonig from NWA PRO to MAIN EVENT is a step down (for Caudle). I may be wrong in this judgment but it seems Jim Ross is using his clout in the NWA booking committee to give himself as much air time as possible. Ross is a fine announcer and deserves all the praise he's received....but Jim's overexposure at the expense of two veteran announcers who still have a number of good years to contribute has left a bad impression on me.

ADAM HOROWITZ
LONG BEACH NY

(FSB: Adam, Lance has remained on NWA PRO and his teaming with Michael Hayes has revved up both careers. Bob's still in 29 cities on MAIN EVENT and on TBS early Mondays but I've heard from several fans who can't see him now and miss him.)

Jim Ross proved why he is the best in the business the way he developed the story on the Horseman turn on Sting during the CLASH. Jim Cornette did a good job, too, but I thought his ethnic jokes were a bit much.

ROGER MARTINEZ
CATULLA TX

Congratulations on putting out one of the best pieces of wrestling literature I have ever read (MATWATCH 1989 ANNUAL). Giving Terry Funk the MAN OF THE YEAR award was a true class act. However, a point you brought up disturbed me. I am talking about your statement that Ric Flair should leave the NWA. What is your logic in stating that the greatest wrestler of all time should leave the troubled promotion? And where would you suggest Flair go if he did leave?

SAM NORD
WALNUT CREEK CA

(FSB: Not to be misunderstood, Sam, but my forecast of a Flair departure was based on the belief he will not last the summer as NWA booker. His run as head of The Committee has been fraught with divisiveness and my feeling is that if this scenario develops and Flair cannot accept strictly wrestling, it would probably be best for him to leave. All of it is relative, however, to TV ratings, morale, house attendance, pay-per-view revenues and ability to deal with the structure of a major corporation.)

The Sting/Flair angle was both well conceived and well executed to complete the Horsemen turn and generated plenty of heat for both the "live" audience and TV viewers (people I watched the show with had not previously seen it "live" and they went "nuts" when Flair decked Sting)....the Sullivan/Norman finish was stupid (again too WWFish); however, Norman looked tremendous (that was the best angle on his character yet)....Warriors/Skyscrapers match and angle was awesome.... The whole WRESTLE WAR '90 card needed promotion. I still don't think solely concentrating on the main event will be enough to sell this show (that rap thing is terrible).

TONY RICHARDS
PADUCAH KY

Moving Jim Cornette to WCW was a very smart move---his color commentary and playing off of Jim Ross has NEVER been better and it makes sense to have him on the main NWA show. I'm glad to see Missy (Hyatt) on NWA MAIN EVENT also. But I don't think Gordon Solie will help the POWER HOUR ratings and if he says, "A personal note, if I may," one more time!!!"

While I must admit I didn't like the idea of the Flair-Horsemen turn (it should be Flair AGAINST the Horsemen), I did like the way it was done---something a little different, at least.

JEFF ZINGER
WOODSTOCK ONT

Overall, I thought the CLASH was good (a "B" rating) and I enjoyed it but I think the Horsemen turn on Sting was done too quickly, not giving Flair and the Andersons enough time as "faces." It wasn't THAT much of a surprise, though, since WRESTLE WAR '90 had Flair-Sting and Andersons-Steiners already scheduled. The short cage bout was a letdown but it should help Muta and that's good.

DAVID WILLIAMSON
CLEVELAND TN

(FSB: How I wish your latter comment was true but as we reported earlier, Muta has all too sadly departed the NWA.)

Your column on Joe Pedicino's departure and the underlying turmoil in the NWA was one of the finest pieces of journalism ever written on this industry and certainly your best ever. And it points out in a very disciplined way how Vince McMahon doesn't have to worry about the NWA as long as it keeps destroying itself.

TAMMY WILSON
FAYETTEVILLE AR

YOU SAID IT!!!

(Continued from Page 5)

Jerry Lawler & Terrence Garvin of the USWA have provided the most entertaining color work of any circuit in recent memory. Any MATWATCHers who have given up on the USWA for its content or lack thereof should tune in for 2 great mouths in action....I think the NWA's found a new star in Cactus Jack. A Jesse Ventura for the '90s, Manson has one key asset that "The Bod" was lacking in: ring ability....Piper's gotten a raw deal from the fed. The walking wounded RP still draws reasonably well, gets a pop rivaled only by Hogan & the Anabol's and is still arguably the best TV personality in wrestling. What does he get for his efforts? A feud with that bastion of heat, Bad News Brown. The bottom line is the front office likes Dusty, Bossman and Beefcake more.

STEVE GENNARELLI
PORT ST. LUCIE FL

RATINGS RAP

NWA MAIN EVENT, WCW SET NEW RECORDS; ALL-AM HITS 3.0

In a week where the injury to Sting has the NWA scrambling, its two top TBS TV series both set ratings and audience records for their Feb. 10-11 airings. NWA MAIN EVENT, boosted by Missy Hyatt's first co-host effort and curiousity over the Sting issue, soared to an all-time high 3.9 and 7.5 per cent share, delivering more homes (2.08 million) than any weekly TBS wrestling program in history.

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING, likewise, posted its top rating (3.8) in more than two years and broke its own homes record with 2.01 million. TBS shows prior to 1987 often scored 4 ratings or higher but those were when the SuperStation was seen in substantially fewer homes.

WWF ALL-AMERICAN continued its strong comeback with a 3.0 rating, though down from the hot 3.4 of the week prior. TBS' CLASH X replay scored a 1.9/5 and program exec Jeff Carr said, "We were pleasantly surprised with the rating."

CABLE

Week Ending Feb. 11	Rating	Share	Total Homes
NWA MAIN EVENT (TBS 2/11)	3.9	7.5	2.08 million
NWA WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP (TBS 2/10)	3.8	7.4	2.01 million
WWF ALL-AMERICAN (USA 2/11)	3.0	7.8	1.55 million
NWA POWER HOUR (TBS 2/9)	2.4	4.1	1.26 million
NWA CLASH X REPLAY (TBS 2/8)	1.9	5.0	1.01 million
NWA POWER HOUR (R) (TBS 2/10)	0.8	6.5	425,000

SYNDICATION
(Week Ending Jan. 28)

	Rating/Stations	Since Jan. 1
WWF	9.3/231	9.2
NWA	7.5/177	7.7

MATWATCH SHOPPERS NETWORK

GEORGE HILL, General Delivery, Jamestown KY 42629 has a number of wall-sized color Road Warriors posters for sale. Write George for details and price.

SEAN RYAN, P.O. Box 84303, Fairbanks AK 99708-4303 is hunting for tapes of Tor Berg's LPWA series.

FERK, 1498-M Reisterstown Rd. #243, Baltimore MD 21208 is gathering research for a book on murdered Baltimore indie wrestler Jim ("Ricki Lawless") Leon. She's interested in tapes, pictures or programs of his cards and would like to contact professional and personal acquaintances. Call (212) 459-4283 if you can help.

TOMMY HEGGIE, 108 Lockhart St., Dickson TN 37055, is interested in tapes of the old Nick Gulas territory pre-1980 before Gulas sold to Jerry Jarrett.

MIKE RODGERS' RING AROUND THE NORTHWEST is 50 cents an issue, heavily covering the Portland circuit. Write Mike at 2740 S.E. Llewellyn, Troutdale OR 97060.

RIC TAVARES, 28 Webster St., S. Dartmouth MA 02748, is offering issues of more than 3,000 wrestling magazines 1972-present for sale, including the old WRESTLING REVUE, WRESTLING MONTHLY and RING WRESTLING.

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